

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

EUR-12 OIC-02 /123 W

-----117656 011745Z /43

R 011659Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5045

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNHRC EG

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, GENEVA,

- FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10

REF: (A) CAIRO 2700, (B) STATE 22442, (C) STATE 24837,

- (D) AMMAN 1048

SUMMARY. GOE ALSO ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO HRC MEETING AND IN MOST INSTANCES ITS VIEWS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF U.S. HOWEVER, CONTINUING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES DESPITE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVES IS CAUSING REVERSION OF GOE STANCE TO WHAT IT WAS PRIOR TO SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM. THUS EGYPTIAN DEL CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE STRONG LINE IN CONDEMNATION ISRAELI POLICY, ALTHOUGH IT PROMISES TO AVOID POLEMICS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO JANUARY 24 DISCUSSION ON FORTH-COMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MEETING (REF A), POLCOUNS CALLED ON DIRECTOR MFA INT'L ORG DEPT AMRE
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MOUSSA ON FEBRUARY 1. POLCOUNS AGAIN EMPHASIZED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE U.S. PLACES ON THIS MEETING AND OUR DESIRE TO WORK OUT DIFFICULT ISSUES IN A NONCONFRONTATIONAL WAY. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, MOUSSA HAD FOLLOWING REACTION TO TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF B:

A. 1503 PROCEDURES. NO SPECIFIC REACTION BUT MOUSSA

APPEARED TO AGREE WITH U.S. REASONING.

B. VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA. EGYPT WOULD CAUCUS WITH AFRICANS ON THIS ISSUE AND IF POSITION WITH WHICH IT COULD AGREE REACHED, IT WOULD ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH AFRICAN POSITION (MOUSSA WAS IN SOMEWHAT TESTY MOOD BY THIS TIME SINCE MIDDLE EAST ISSUES HAD BEEN FIRST ITEM DISCUSSED--SEE BELOW).

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C. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCRC). MOUSSA CONFIRMED GOE POSITION WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED PRIVATELY (REF A) THAT GOE OPPOSES CREATION OF THIS POST BECAUSE IT WOULD BRING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES INTO WORKING ALLIANCE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES SINCE THEY ALL SHARE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN DESPITE FACT THEY CONSIDER IT STRICTLY INTERNAL MATTER. AT SAME TIME, GOE FEARS HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD COME UNDER INFLUENCE OF THOSE CONCERNED MOST WITH PUSHING EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM THE USSR TO ISRAEL, WHICH OF COURSE ALL ARAB STATES OPPOSE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. NO PEACE SETTLEMENT. MOUSSA REFUSED TO BUDGE ON THIS POINT.

D. DETAINEES IN SOUTH AFRICA. AGREEMENT WITH U.S. POSITION.

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E. ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES. DESPITE OUR AGREEMENT WITH POINTS MADE BY EMBASSY AMMAN (REF D), GIVEN SHORT TIME BEFORE HCRC MEETING BEGINS, POLCOUNS MENTIONED POINTS CONTAINED REF B IN LOW-KEY MANNER IN ORDER DETERMINE IF CURRENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAD PERHAPS MODERATED GOE POSITION. IT HAS NOT. IN UNUSUALLY EMOTIONAL TERMS MOUSSA ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT EGYPT'S PAST SILENCE OR MODERATION, FREQUENTLY IN RESPONSE TO U.S. DEMARCHES, AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVES AND WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ALL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH ISRAELIS HAD ACHIEVED. IN HIS VIEW, THESE EGYPTIAN ACTIONS HAD NOT DETERRED ISRAEL FROM PURSUING ITS "AGGRESSIVE" POLICY OF ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS (MOST RECENTLY AT SHILOH) AND EXPANDING EXISTING ONES AS IN SINAI. THE U. S. UNDERSTANDS THIS VERY WELL AS EVIDENCED BY PURPORTED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PM BEGIN. EGYPT BELIEVES THAT NEW SITUATION CREATED BY SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM SHOULD HAVE LED TO A SUSPENSION OF ALL SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY BY ISRAEL. EGYPTIAN MOVES AT THIS TIME ARE REACTIVE TO ISRAELI ACTIONS. U.S. SHOULD THEREFORE EXERT ITS EFFORTS TO STOP THE ACTION RATHER THAN THE REACTION. BEFORE ASKING ARABS, U.S. SHOULD INSIST THAT

ISRAELIS BE FORTH-COMING. HRC WILL, MOUSSA SAID, BE MEETING IN THIS ATMOSPHERE AND EGYPT FULLY INTENDS TO REITERATE ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENTS DURING THE DEBATES, THE VOTING AND CORRIDORS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPT WILL ENGAGE IN POLEMICS AND DIATRIBES. IT WILL STICK TO REASON AND NON-POLEMIC LANGUAGE.

2. COMMENT. GOE IS AWARE OF IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES L HRC MEETING AND OUR POSITION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. HOWEVER, SLOW PROGRESS IN PEACE PROCESS AND CONTINUING ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY CAUSING REVERSION IN GOE STANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHAT IT

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WAS PRIOR TO SADAT INITIATIVES. WE SEE LITTLE HOPE OF REVERSING THIS TREND REGARDLESS OF HOW CONVINCING OUR ARGUMENTS ARE IN ABSENCE OF BREAKTHROUGH ON PEACE FRONT OR ISRAELI DECISION TO CEASE ALL SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. EILTS

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